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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 /062 W
---------- 118028
O R 161020Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2828
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7229

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID KS JA
SUBJECT: SEPT. 15 ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL TALKS

SUMMARY: ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL TALKS HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY PROCLAIMED A SUCCESS BY THE PARTICIPANTS ON BOTH SIDES AND APPEAR TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY ENDED RECENT ERA OF ILL FEELING BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL TALKS HELD IN SEOUL SEPTEMBER 15 WENT EXTREMELY WELL ACCORDING TO MINISTERS ON BOTH SIDES. MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PAK AND JAPANESE DELEGATION WAS RELAXED AND CORDIAL AND RAN ABOUT 20 MINUTES OVERTIME. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER PRESIDENT INITIALLY SPOKE THROUGH INTERPRETER, BUT LATER CONVERSED WITH DEPUTY PM FUKUDA DIRECTLY IN JAPANESE. FOREIGN MINISTER MIK TONG-CHO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS WAS POSITIVE AND JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MIYZAZWA SAID HIS TALKS WITH KIM WENT VERY WELL. DEPUTY PM FUKUDA PRIVATELY CHARACTERIZED
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MEETING TO AMBASSADOR AS A POSITIVE STEP FORWARD. THE JAPANESE MIN-

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ISTERS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT THE ABSENCE OF CONFRONTATION
AND WRANGLING OVER THE COMMUNIQUE THAT HAD CHARACTERIZED PRE-
VIOUS MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. JAPANESE VICE FOREIGN
MINISTER ARITA TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED
TO FIND THE KOREANS INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE RATHER THAN FORM
AND GAIMUSHO ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU DIRECTOR KIKUCHI,
REFERRING TO THE CHILL THAT SETTLED OVER ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS
AFTER THE DEATH OF MRS. PAK AND THE KIDNAPPING OF
KIM TONG-CHO, SAID THE TALKS HAD LAID THE PAST TO REST.

2. COMMUNIQUE (SEPTEL) REFLECTED CORDIALITY EXTOLLED BY
PARTICIPANTS WITH CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BEING MUTED
OR AVOIDED. THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT.
COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED ROK EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE WITH
NORTH KOREA AND JAPANESE MINISTERS' APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE
OF ROK DIALOGUE TO PEACE, THE EASING OF TENSIONS, AND THE
PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE PENINSULA.
ECONOMIC PASSAGES REFERRED TO IMPACT OF WORLD POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS ON KOREA'S THIRD FIVE-YEAR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROMISED WORKING-LEVEL
NEGOTIATIONS ON DETAILED PLANS FOR CONTINUED
GOVERNMENT-LEVEL COOPERATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND EXPANSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.
NO FIGURES WERE MENTIONED. BOTH SIDES TOOK NOTE IN
COMMUNIQUE OF WORLD BANK-SPONSORED IECOK REPORT ENDORSING
NEED FOR LONG-TERM, LOW-INTEREST LOANS AND PRIVATE FUNDS TO
FINANCE APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC PROJECTS DURING LATTER HALF OF
1970'S. PROJECTS IN KOREA'S FOURTH FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC
PLAN REQUIRING JAPANESE GOVERNMENT COOPERATION ARE TO BE
STUDIED IN WORKING-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS.

4. MOFA AND JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICERS TOLD EMBOFF TALKS
WERE CONDUCTED ON A HIGH POLITICAL PLANE, WITH DETAILS LEFT
TO SUBORDINATES. MINISTERS DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO SETTING
FORTH POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR LATER LOWER-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS.
MOFA ASIA BUREAU ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GONG RO-MYUNG SIAD
MIYAZAWA TOLD ROK MINISTERS JAPAN-ROK RELATIONSHIP WAS OF
PRIMARY IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN, BUT SOME FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
JAPAN-DPRK RELATIONSHIP AT PRIVATE LEVEL PROBABLY INEVITABLE.
GONG SAID HE EXPECTED TO SEE ADDITIONAL JAPANESE OVERTURES
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TO THE NORTH KOREANS IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT BELIEVED
THEY WOULD BE CONFINED TO NON-OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

5. LIMITED PRESS COMMENTARY TO DATE HAS BEEN FAVORABLE,
ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME CHARACTERIZATION OF THE
COMMUNIQUE AS "POLITICALLY PERFUNCTORY" AND SOME COMPLAINT
ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC ECONOMIC AGREEMENT OTHER THAN
VAGUE REFERENCE TO GOVERNMENT-LEVEL COOPERATION. PAPERS ALSO

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NOTED ABSENCE OF REFERENCE TO NORTH KOREAN THREAT.
COMMENT: GIVEN THE HISTORY OF THE ROK-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP,
THE FRIENDLY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED WAS A
MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE BROUGHT RECENT
ERA OF ILL FEELING TO AN END. END COMMENT.
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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, KS, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006